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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-7. Please add new Claims 8-14. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (New) A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch.
9. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the composite material includes fibers in a binder.
10. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the wood has a density below about 8 grams per cubic inch.
11. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the wood is Sitka spruce.
12. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein skin of composite material has a thickness that varies along a length of the shaft.
13. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the skin of the composite material has a thickness that varies continuously along a length of the shaft from a thinner skin toward a front end to a thicker skin toward a back end.
14. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 8, further comprising:
watertight capping material to prevent exposure of the wood core to water.